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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

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14 September 1972Pankow Protests CDU/CSU Meeting in Berlin

The East German regime is loudly criticizing the meeting of West Germany's CDU and CSU political leaders in West Berlin scheduled for 2 October. Neues Deutschland has called the session a "gross violation" of the spirit of the Quadripartite Agreement (QA) on West Berlin and a "step evidently aimed against the trend of relaxation and security in Europe." Moscow has lent its support to the charge through a TASS rebroadcast of the editorial.

An eventual testing of the terms of the QA on the subject of West German political activity in West Berlin has been virtually inevitable since it went into effect last June. The agreement specifies that West Berlin is "not part of the FRG and cannot be governed by it", but that "the ties between the western sectors of Berlin and the FRG will be maintained and developed,"--phraseology which leaves open to interpretation what West German politicians individually may or may not do in West Berlin. It is likely that the CDU as part of its election tactics chose to defend what it considers a legitimate West German political presence in West Berlin. The East Germans would obviously like to set their own precedent and have thus picked up the gauntlet. Whether the CDU/CSU meeting is carried out or not, the issue will remain a controlled one and is not likely to blossom into a "crisis" that could threaten the Berlin accords or the ongoing inter-German talks. 25X1

Comment on "New York Times" Report That Yugoslavia Offers Safe Haven for Arab Terrorists

The New York Times on 13 September carried an article by Gideon Rafael, former Israeli Ambassador to the UN and Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs asserting Belgrade's duplicity with regard to Arab terrorism. Rafael, in talking about Rome-based Arab terrorists activity, makes the following assertion: "From Italy they have easy access to the safe haven of hospitable Yugoslavia, a country plagued itself by the scourge of terrorism but markedly benevolent and tolerant toward that of Arab extraction. Strange are the ways of political expediency."

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While Yugoslavia has consistently supported the Palestinian cause, it has been no less consistent in condemning terrorist activity as counter-productive.

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The Yugoslav reaction to the Munich tragedy has been one of shock and censure. From Tito down, the killings at the Olympic village have been labelled senseless bloodletting which has done more harm than good.

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There is no evidence to support Rafael's assertion that Yugoslavia is a "safe haven" for Arab terrorists. There are a number of Arab students studying in Yugoslavia and it is possible one or more of them have ties to the terrorists. As Rafael himself points out, Yugoslavia has been the victim of terrorist atrocities on a number of occasions and Belgrade clearly draws the line at support for such activity.

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